

THE **Bishop of BATH and WELLS**

SERMON Before the House of Peers

On *January* the 30th 1692.

Die Lune 1^o. Februarii 1691.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That the Thanks of this House are hereby given to the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells for his Sermon Preached before this House on Saturday last in the Abbey-Church at Westminster, and he is hereby desired to Print and Publish the same.

Matth. Johnson Cler^r Parliamentor.

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S E R M O N

Preached before the
Lords Spiritual and Temporal

I N T H E

Abbey-Church

A T

WESTMINSTER,

The 30th of January, 169¹.

By the Right Reverend Father in GOD,
RICHARD Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *J. H.* for *B. Aylmer* at the Three
Pigeons against the *Royal Exchange*
in *Cornhill.* MDCXCII.
12. febr. 1

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ROMAN

ESTIMATES

FOR THE ESTIMATION OF LANDS

AND BUILDINGS

AND OTHER PROPERTY

BY

W. ESTIMATOR

THE 20th of January 1881

FOR THE ESTIMATION OF LANDS AND BUILDINGS IN THE
TOWN OF KILMARNOCK, AND THE VILLAGE OF KILMARNOCK.

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Math. XXIII. 35.

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the Earth, from the blood of righteous Abel, unto the blood of Zacharias, the Son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the Temple and the Altar.

WE find our Blessed Saviour, in the foregoing parts of this Chapter, denouncing several *Woes* against the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*. I shall look no farther back than to the 29th. Verse of this Chapter. Thence we shall be easily introduced to the words of my Text.

There we find our Lord severely denouncing against the *Hypocrisy* of the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, in pretending great honour for the *departed Saints*, when they were maliciously bent against the *living ones*; A piece of *Hypocrisy* which they were guilty of, and which many since have followed. They

professed great respect for the departed *Saints*, in building their *Tombs*, and garnishing their *Sepulchres*, (v. 29.) and declaring against their Forefather's impiety; *If we had been in the days of our Fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the Prophets*, (v. 30.) Notorious Hypocrites! Their Hypocrisy appears in the following particulars.

First, In that they continued in their own wickedness, and yet applauded the *Saints* departed. They should have imitated their *Vertues*; but content themselves with garnishing their *Sepulchres*. They keep their *Sins*, and magnifie the *Saints*; As if they could atone for their own *Sins* by praising the *Vertues*, and preserving the Memory of the Righteous. This is palpable Hypocrisy, and yet, as gross as it is, it prevails still; There are too many like him who pleased himself that he had a *Levite* for his *Priest*, tho' he had an *Idol* for his *God*. 'Tis egregious Hypocrisy to cry up the *Saints* and *Herd* with the *wicked*: If the *Saints* did well, why do we not follow them? if not, why do we cry them up?

Secondly, In professing a profound respect for the *Saints* departed, when they were for perse-

persecuting them that were *alive*. They professed that they would not have done as their Fathers did, and are at the cost of building and garnishing the Tombs and Sepulchres of the Righteous. All this is but Hypocrify. Our Saviour's words make this plain: *Behold (says He.) I send unto you Prophets, and Wise men, and Scribes, and some of them ye shall kill and crucify, and some of them shall ye scourge in your Synagogues, and persecute them from City to City, (v. 31.)* Thus at the same time they extoll the *Saints departed*, and are maliciously bent on the oppressing the *living*.

Virtutem incolorem odimus.

They who love not righteous Men while they live, yet praise them when they are dead. Such Men are well compared to Batts or Owls, that rejoice in the light of the Sun after it is set; when its brighter beams they would not endure. Such Men, after all their pretences, are but Children of Darknes. There was much of this Hypocrify among the Jews. They magnified their pious Ancestors, and persecuted their righteous Off-spring. They boasted of *Abraham*, and worried his faithfull

Chil-

Children. In a word, commended *Virtue*, and oppressed it at the same time. And this Hypocrisy hath been followed by others also. Those who profess great veneration for *Saints*, have born very hard upon them; They who have magnified the *Martyrs*, and preserve their Memory in their *Dypticks*, *solemn Offices* and *Kalendars*, have also added to their number and shed their bloud.

Thirdly, In taking a false measure of their love to the *Saints departed*, from their *building* their *Tombs* and *garnishing* their *Sepulchres*. 'Tis not to be thought that they are reproved barely for this care of their Tombs. But this is short of that honour we ought to express towards *Saints* and *Martyrs*. We must imitate their *Examples*; and purge out of our Minds all that hatred and ill-will which possell'd their *Persecutors*. These Men ought to have repented of their Father's Crimes; We may *Canonize* and *Worship* *Saints*, and yet be far from giving them all due honour. We then honour them, when we *imitate* their *Vertues* and *cherish* their *Followers*. 'Tis gross Hypocrisy to pay respect to their *Relicks*, and veneration to their *Images*, and

and at the same time to afflict their Followers. Our Saviour requires St. Peter to shew his Love to Him, by his tender care of his Sheep, *John 21.17.*

Our Saviour lets the *Jews* know that he would lay open their Hypocrisy. He would send among them Prophets and Wise men, whom they would persecute and kill after all their false pretences of their veneration for them. And indeed none have more severely afflicted the Saints, than those Men have done who have pretended the greatest honour for them. They have imitated *Herod*, who intended to kill *Jesus*, when he gave out that he would worship Him. *Behold I send unto you Prophets, &c.* And then it follows, *That upon you may come, &c.* And here,

First, I shall endeavour to Explain these words. For there is some difficulty in them.

Secondly, I shall shew the Justice of this denunciation: *That upon you may come, &c.*

Thirdly, I shall make some Application, with a particular reference to the sad occasion which hath brought us together.

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I. I shall

I. I shall endeavour to Explain the words.

First, I consider these words, *That upon you may come*. This is explained by St. Luke, ch. 11. ver. 50. ἵνα εἰστηθῆται τοῖς γενεᾶς ταῦτα, i.e. That it may be required of this Generation.

But then it is to be remembred that the Particle *ἵνα* in St. Luke (which in St. Matthew is expressed by *ἵνως*) does not always import the *End* or *final Cause*, but the *Effect* or *Consequent*. And in this latter sense it is to be understood in this place. It is not to be supposed that the Prophets were sent, that the Jews might put them to death, and contract the guilt of their Righteous blood: This was the *consequent* and *event* indeed, but not the *end* of sending them. That Particle is sometimes to be understood as *Causal*, sometimes as *Consequential* only. And in this latter sense 'tis to be taken here, and elsewhere also. Thus 'tis thought, not without reason, it is to be understood, *Matth. 1. 22*. Again, The Law entered *That* the Offence might abound, *Rom. 5. 20*.

Secondly,

Secondly, It will be a matter of greater difficulty to determine who was this *Zacharias* the Son of *Barachias*, who was slain between the *Temple and the Altar*. There are several Opinions about it.

1. That it is to be understood of the Prophet *Zechariah*, *Zech. 1. 1.* who is said to be the Son of *Barachiah*. But this is not likely: For we do not find that he was slain; and if we had cause to believe that he was slain, yet, have we no cause to think he was slain between the *Temple and the Altar*. The *Jews* in his time were newly returned from *Captivity*, and then their *Temple and Altar* were not built. If it had, 'tis not very likely they should there have slain this Prophet: Be that as it will, we have not Evidence of the fact.

2. That it is to be understood of *Zacharias*, the Father of *John Baptist*. This would well agree with the Context, had we sufficient reason to believe the matter of fact. We have not ground enough to believe that he was slain by the *Jews*; nor does it appear that he was the Son of *Barachias*.

3. There is another *Zacharias* that bids fairer than those, named before, to be the Person meant by our Saviour. He is mentioned, 2 *Chron. 24. 20.* He was indeed a Prophet, and a Righteous Man: He was slain by the Hands of the People, and Command of the King ; and that also *in the Court of the house of the Lord* : And that agrees well with what is in my Text, expressed by *between the Temple and the Altar*. When he was killed, he said, *The Lord look upon it and require*. His was indeed Righteous bloud, and the guilt was National, and might well be required of that generation. His Death was a most hainous Sin : He was himself a Prophet and a Priest, and the Son of an High-Priest, who was the great Restorer of God's Worship, and had deserved greatly both of the King and People. 'Twas great Impiety to kill so great a Saint, and the Son of one who had deserved a perpetual Memory from King and People. 'Twas a detestable crime to murther him, considering his innocence, his birth and character ; and greater still to doe it when he was in the execution of his Office, and bringing them back to the worship of God, and to
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doe all this not onely in the sight of the Sun
but in the House of his God.

But after all that hath been said, there are
two considerable objections against this (o-
therwise very probable) opinion also.

First, That the person mentioned, 2 Chron.
24. is said to be the Son of *Jebojada*, this in
my Text the Son of *Barachias*. This is by a R. Isaac
Jewish Writer urged as an Error in the Text ^{Chizuk. E-}
of St. Matthew, and such an one also as will ^{mun. l. 2.}
^{c. 22.} admit of no *salvo*.

But the Jews, of all Men, have no reason
to make this objection against the authority
of the Text. Such pretences may be brought
against some Books of the Old Testament,
which yet can be of no force to destroy
their authority. They might rather suppose
this person to have two Names, that of *Je-
bojada*, and this of *Barachias*. It was very
common among them. No man doubts of ^{Psal. 34. Tit.}
the *Psalmist's* authority, because he calls the ^{with 1 Sam.}
^{21. 11.} same man *Abimilech*, whom another sacred
Writer calls *Achish*. The same man is called
Ner in one place, who in another is called
Abiel, 1 Sam. 9. 1. with 1 Chron. 8. 32. One
sacred Writer calls him *Ammiel*, whom an-
other

ther calls *Eliam*, 2 Sam. 11. 3. with 1 Chron. 3. 5. And him *Chileab*, whom another calls *Daniel*, 2 Sam. 3. 3. with 1 Chron. 3. 1. The same woman is said to be the daughter of *Elon*, and in the same book called the daughter of *Ismael*, Gen. 26. 34. with Chap. 36. v. 3. *Reuel*, *Jethro* and *Hobab* are by the Jews allowed to be the several Names of the same person. Nothing being more common than for the same man to have divers Names, and for that cause no man in his wits can impeach the sacred Writers for using this variety.

Hieron. in Matt. 23.

I shall add, that the Gospel of St. *Matthew* was written originally in Hebrew. And St. *Hierom* tells us expressly, that in that Hebrew Copy which the *Nazarens* used, it was *Jojada*, where we now reade *Barachias*. We have no reason to doubt of one or of the other. And then the objection lies not against the Original Text; And it can have no force against the Greek Version: For *Jehojada* and *Berachiah* being names of the very same import and signification in the Hebrew (as 2 Chro. 36. 4 *Eliakim* and *Jehojakim* are, which belonged to the same person,) and, for what we know, the

Menass. B.
Israel. Con-
cil. in Exod.
qu. 1. Joseph.
Antiq. l. 2.
c. 12.

the same person might be called by both. 'Tis not strange that *Jebojada* should by the Greek Interpreter be rendred *Barachias*.

Secondly, It may likewise be objected, that 'tis not likely that the *Zacharias* in my Text should refer to the Son of *Jebojada*, because our Saviour beginning as high as *Abel*, 'tis not to be supposed he should descend no lower than that Son of *Jebojada*, who was slain Eight hundred years before these words were spoken. 'Tis more reasonable to believe that he would descend to the latter end of the *Jewish* Polity, and that he refers to some person that was slain a little before the dissolution of the *Jewish* State. And upon this Consideration I add,

4. That there is another *Zacharias*, mentioned by *Josephus*, that was slain by the *Jews* De Bell. Jui. daic. l. 4. c. 18. a-while before the destruction and dissolution of the *Jewish* Polity. Him he calls *ζαχαρίας*. He was accused as guilty of Treachery, and too great a Favourer of the *Romans*. But tho' he were innocent, and absolved by the *Sanedrin*, yet was he unjustly slain by the *Jewish Zealots*, *εν μέσῳ της ιερᾶς*, i.e. in the middle of the *Temple*, which agrees very well with

with *between the Temple and the Altar*. This instance answers very well to *Abel* slain from the beginning; It agrees well with my Text, he was the Son of *Baruch*, and slain in the Temple. And then our Saviour's words are *proleptical*; and being a Prophecy of what was shortly to come to pass, no wonder that they are expressed in such terms, (a thing very usual in the old Prophets,) as if the thing had already been fulfilled. The time past is frequently used for the future among the ancient Prophets, and sometimes in the Rev. 11. 13. New Testament also. And if the words of *Jesus* refer to this person, then are they so far from affording an Objection against the truth of the Gospel-history, that they do confirm it.

What hath been said is sufficient, I hope, for the Explanation of my words. I proceed now to,

II. Shew the Justice of this denunciation:
That upon you may come, &c.

And here I am to consider how far Children are obnoxious upon account of their Father's offences.

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For that they are concerned on account of their Father's faults, is plain from the Words, and from other Arguments also.

We find God denouncing against the third and fourth Generation of Idolaters, or of them that hate Him. *Exod. 20.* Holy Men have confessed the Sins of their Fathers. *We Dan. 9. 16.* *have sinned with our Fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.* *Our Fa-* *Nehem. 9. Ps. 106. 6,7.* *thers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembred not the multitude of thy mercies, but provoked him at the Sea, even at the red Sea.* And God promiseth Mercy to them who confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their Fathers, *Levit. 26. 40.* *Josiah* was a good King, but descended from *Menasseh*, a very wicked person, upon his account *Judah* is afflicted. *Notwithstanding the Lord turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Menasseh had provoked him withall,* *2 Kings 29. 2.* This is enough to justifie our Church, when she directs us to pray, *Remember not our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our Forefathers.*

For the better speaking to this matter, First, I shall shew how this is to be understood.

Secondly, I shall consider the grounds of it.

First, How it is to be understood that the Children are obnoxious upon the account of their Fathers Sin. And that in the following particulars.

1. It must not be understood of Eternal punishment. A man shall not for his Father's Sins lye down in Everlasting burnings. As our Fathers Faith will not let us into Heaven, so neither will their Impiety shut us out. We may be deprived of many Temporal blessings on their account, but not of Eternal glory. The Children of those that murmured and lusted in the Wilderness, were admitted into the promised Land. The Daughters of *Zelophehad* are not deprived of their Inheritance, tho' their Father fell short of the good Land. We shall be separately considered there according to our own deeds. When the Father dyes for Treason, the Son is not capitally punished, unless he were an associate or complice. However his Bloud

be

be tainted, or his Goods diminished, his Life cannot be touched.

2. Where the Children continue in their Father's crimes, there is no injustice in punishing them. Thus have those words (*Exod. 20. 5.*) been anciently understood; and thus it is in the case before us. *Behold I send unto you Prophets--and some of them ye shall kill.* v. 34. In this case there is no shadow of injustice. And they may be said to continue in their Fathers sins, who do not confess them, nor repent of them; who abhor them not, and root not out of their Minds those faulty Principles and vicious Propensities that lead them to the same crimes. There is no injustice in punishing the innocent, what-ever the impulsive cause may be.

3. For Temporal Evils they may be, without any shadow of injustice, the lot and portion of the best of Men. I say, without any shadow of injustice on God's part. For on Man's part there is often great injustice. And tho' God makes use of Men as instruments of severity to chastise his Servants, this does not excuse their fault, or lessen their crime.

But 'tis evident that a good Man may suffer greatly in this World without impeachment of the Justice or Providence of God. 'Tis sometimes for the good of the whole that the Righteous Man suffers, and always for his own. He will have a more ample reward hereafter, and will not want a sufficient support here. These things being premised, it will not be hard

Secondly, To give you the grounds of this; That is, to shew you why the Children are many times punished or afflicted upon the score of their Father's impiety. I shall speak of these with a particular respect to the *Jews*, to whom my Text relates.

There are several circumstances in the case before us that do enhance the crime of the *Jewish* posterity.

1. Their Sin was the greater, because their Fathers sins (as well as the many Plagues that were inflicted on them for their offences) were recorded, and the record of these things was preserved among them. Whatever things were written afore-time, were written for their warning and instruction. They were not left without witness. For besides

sides their Conscience, and their warning by their Prophets from time to time, they had among them an account in writing of their Fathers crimes and plagues; This advanceth their iniquity above the size and stature of that of their Forefathers. They sinned after the greatest Warning, and severest Examples. To this purpose it hath been well observed, that tho' Murther was forbid as a capital Crime to the Sons of *Noah*, as well as to the *Jews*; And there was no sacrifice of Expiation allowed for that Sin by the Law of *Moses*, yet *Cain*, the first Murtherer, was exempted from Death by God himself. He was indeed doomed to be an Exile and a Vagabond; but care was taken that *Cain* should not be killed, because *in him the World had warning*. In after-times it was strictly provided that every Murtherer should dye the death. This is applicable to our present case. The Fathers of these *Jews* had killed the Prophets, and had suffered severely for their wickedness; they knew all this very well, and yet after all this warning they tread in their Father's steps.

2. Because they repeated the same Sins, and persisted in them to the last. To repeat our folly, and persist in it, is always a great aggravation of it. 'Tis some extenuation of our fault that we are surprized. The liquor of the Grape hath prevailed sometime upon a righteous, but unwary Man. Our persisting adds weight to our guilt. This was the case of these *Jews*, they went on to persecute and destroy the Righteous as their Fathers did ; They fill up the measure of their iniquity, and hasten their own ruine and destruction.

3. They do this also under the profession of better things. *If we had been in the days of our Fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the bloud of the Prophets.* v. 30. This made their Sin the more detestable, that they were guilty of the greatest cruelty, when they made profession of mercy and tenderness. They covered their hatred to God's living Saints, by professing a great veneration for the Saints departed. That's a detestable Hypocrify when Men shall declaim against their Fathers sins, and make much of their own. This does mightily enhance their guilt,

guilt, and call for their destruction. Their iniquity is now ripe and full, when they condemn and practice the same thing. Their Fathers sinned greatly, but they owned it. These Hypocrites cloak their own malice by exclaiming against that of their Father's. No sin is greater than that which is acted under the disguise of Piety. No Wolf is more ravenous and formidable than he that lurks under Sheep's-cloathing. He is the great Sinner that indulgeth himself in that very sin which he pretends to loath. Their Fathers did well or ill: If they did well, why should they declaim against them? If ill, why should they imitate them? These Men are without all excuse, they practice in contradiction to themselves, and add to their Father's guilt the vilest hypocrisy. They imitate the treachery of *Judas*, who kissed and betrayed his Lord at the same time. These Men preface their Villanies with shew of Religion, and follow the worst of Men, when they personate the best. They are like him who proclaimed a Fast, but designed by it to gain his Neighbour's Vineyard; and him who plotted Treason against his Prince,

when

when he made a shew of paying his Vows to his God. This is such an aggravation as (added to the rest) does abundantly shew the Justice of this denunciation.

III. I shall now proceed to the Use and Application of what hath been said, with a particular Reflection upon the sad Occasion that brings us together this Day.

On this Day it was that our Sovereign, of Blessed Memory, fell by the hands of Violence and Wickedness. Then was his Righteous bloud shed. And tho' we gave no explicit consent to this barbarous Murther, and perhaps with the *Jews* have said, That if we had been in the days of our Forefathers, we would not have been partakers with them ; yet all this while we may deceive our selves and others, if we do not confess this Sin with great humility, and abandon all propensities to so great a wickedness. I shall more particularly shew you the Application of what hath been said.

1. This will justifie our solemn assembling at this time. We come together to deprecate God's displeasure for the innocent bloud that

that was this day shed. And we have good cause so to do. For if the Righteous bloud, shed so long before, might justly be required of the after-generation of the *Jews*, this may be required of us. We find that the *Jews* kept a Fast a long time for the slaughter of *Gedaliah*, *Zech.* 7. 5. with *Jer.* 41. 1, 2. called by the Prophet the Fast of the *seventh Month*: We have greater reason for this. That we consented not to the shedding this Righteous bloud, will not discharge us from the Service of this day. For neither did those *Jews* that kept that Fast consent to the Murther of *Gedaliah*, *Deut.* 21. We know what the Law required in case of an uncertain Murther: An Heifer was to be killed, the Priests were to be present, the Elders of the neighbouring City were to wash their hands, and say, *Our hands have not shed this bloud, neither have our eyes seen it. Be mercifull, O Lord, unto thy people Israel whom thou hast redeemed, and lay not innocent bloud unto thy people of Israels charge.* It follows, *So shalt thou put away the guilt of innocent bloud from among you, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the Lord.* This wil be our best

course upon this occasion, not onely to disown the fact our selves, but to deprecate the Divine displeasure, and pray that it may not be imputed to the Nation.

2. We may learn what cause we have to be humbled for our Fathers sins, and more particularly for that Wickedness committed on this day. Then was the Nation stained with the Righteous bloud of an innocent and excellent Prince. That bloud God will require of the principal Criminals and Accessories also, of the first Offenders and their Associates. The cry of innocent Bloud is loud : It pierceth the Heavens, and finds a direct way to the Ears of God. As we would not be charged with it, let us humble our selves before God : The stain can be removed no other way, but by Tears of Repentance and the Bloud of *Jesus*. The Psalmist was guilty of bloud. He was a Prince, and might say to God, *Against Thee, Thee onely have I sinned* : Ps.50. But it follows, *Deliver me from bloud-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my Salvation*. And, *Thou desirest not Sacrifice, else would I give it---The Sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit---The Wickedness committed this*

this day was premeditated and studied, coloured with a pretence of Law and Justice, practiced under the cloak of Religion and disguise of Piety. It will admit of no extenuation. It was an action foul and deformed, cruel and barbarous, without excuse or plea. He must be lost to the reason of a Man, and the tenderness of a Christian, whom it strikes not with horror. What remains then; but that we apply our selves to the Mercies of God and Merits of Christ for our atonement and expiation. Nothing short of this can give us hope, and nothing but our sorrow and repentance can give us the hope of this.

3. Let us endeavour to cut off the entail of Curses, which threaten us from our Fore-fathers sins. We too often inherit their guilt, and are infected with their vicious inclinations. Let us do what we can to derive a blessing on our selves and our posterity. And to that purpose let us be persuaded,

First, To perfect our Repentance both for our Fathers and our own iniquities. This is the only way to keep off the Evils which

threaten us, the best Security against the Wrath to come. Our timely and complete Repentance is our defence, and God will do by us all as we do in this matter. As we would avoid the plagues of this and the next life, let us retire our selves from this World and all its amusements, enter into our Closets and examin our State towards God, and humbly deprecate his displeasure on account of our Fathers and our own iniquities. Let us do it as frequently as we can, and as fervently too. There is great reason we should do thus. The Wickedness committed on this day requires it, from which I fear we are not yet purged; our Personal sins, and their circumstances of aggravation, require it also. We had need of our Solemn times of Repentance and Humiliation; and the good improvement of them are the best preservative of our Selves and the Nation. After all our guilts, both National and Personal, after so many and such crying Sins, so great a decay of Piety and real Goodness, contempt of God and Religion, we must not think that a cold confessing our Sins will serve our turn, we must abhor them and be greatly humbled for them.

Secondly,

Secondly, Let us be exemplary in Piety and real Goodness. Let us own it before all the World, and promote it what we can in those under our care and influence. Let us do it with all our might in our several places, and as this will be the best of our titles, so 'twill be our surest defence.

Thirdly, Let us run counter to the crimes of our Forefathers. Let their Disobedience commend to us Fidelity and true Allegiance; Their Oppression teach us Mercy and Good-will; Their Bloud-guiltiness put us upon Compassion and Kindnes; Their Revenge direct us to Forgivenes and Forbearance; And their Hypocrify stir us up to Sincerity. This will be a real proof of the Sincerity of our Repentance.

Fourthly, Let us add our constant and fervent Prayers for the Kingdoms to which we belong, for our Selves and our Relatives, that God would be appeased, that the Righteous bloud shed this day, and at all times else, may not be imputed to us or them. Let this amazing Providence of God, which we solemnly remember this day, awaken us to repentance and newness of life. To a life abstracted from
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the World, and devoted to God. All the Divine Judgments, and therefore that of this day, loudly call us to this. And if we hearken not to them, we shall not be heard when we call for Mercy. The Judgment of this day ought to move us greatly in this matter. If they did these things to the green tree, what shall be done to the dry? We are all concerned in this day's work, to bewail the Wickedness of Men and improve the amazing Providence of God. This we cannot do, unless we take warning and learn to forsake the World, and devote our selves to God, and prepare for all Events of things. If the Righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the Sinner and the Ungodly appear?

We have, since this fatal blow was given, suffered severely; and what the *Jews* say of the Calf in the Wilderness, that there is something of it in all their after-sufferings, may with as much truth be said of the barbarous Murther of this day: Our Sufferings have been the produce of the horrid Sin of this day. For many of them they bore the marks and signatures of it. We might easily have read our *guilt* in our *infliction*, and could not but own that our iniquity had found us out.

out. We have reason to fear that God's wrath is not yet quite turned away, and that his hand is stretched out still. We have suffered already, let us Sin no more, lest some worse thing come upon us. Good God awaken us to see in time the things that belong to our Peace before they be hid from our Eyes. I shall conclude with the Prayer that is part of a Collect appointed for this day. *Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto Wisdom. And grant that neither the splendor of any thing that is great, nor the conceit of any thing that is good in us may any way withdraw our eyes from looking upon our selves as sinfull dust and ashes. But that (according to the example of thy Blessed Martyr) we may press forward toward the prize of the high calling that is before us in faith and patience, humility and meekness, mortification and self-denial, charity and constant perseverance unto the end. And all this for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; To whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, World without end. Amen.*

F I N I S.

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